

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 63-73 are pending.

Claims 6-65 and 69-72 are being amended, and new claims 74-79 are being added.
After the amendments, claims 63-79 will be pending.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended) A method for preparing an antibody or a fragment thereof a binding compound that comprises ~~[[an]]~~ the antigen binding site ~~from an~~ of the antibody, wherein said antibody binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;

said method comprising:

- (a) ~~preparing candidate antibodies by using~~ raising an antibody to the IL-B30/p40 complex or a polypeptide that comprises at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the p40 subunit and at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the IL-B30 subunit, [[and]]
- (b) determining the specificity of the antibody raised in step (a) ~~candidate antibodies~~ using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein, and confirming that thereby identifying said antibody binds to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein; and
- (c) optionally preparing said fragment from said antibody.

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 63, wherein said ~~binding compound~~ antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 63, wherein said ~~binding compound~~ antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) A method of ~~preparing a binding compound~~ an antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;
wherein the ~~binding compound~~ antibody or fragment does not bind the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone,

said method comprising

- (a) ~~selecting said binding compound from candidate binding compounds~~ providing candidate antibodies or fragments that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein; and
- (b) contacting the candidate antibodies or fragments with the IL-B30 and p40 subunits and selecting said antibody or fragment.

70. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69 wherein said ~~binding compound~~ antibody or fragment is selected by immunoselection or immunodepletion.

71. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said ~~binding compound~~ antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

72. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said ~~binding compound~~ antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

74. (New) A method for identifying an antibody or fragment thereof that binds to:
(i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
(ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;
said method comprising:

(a) providing candidate antibodies or fragments, and
(b) determining the specificity of the candidate antibodies or fragments using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein and identifying said antibody or fragment.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

76. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

77. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody or fragment is detectably labeled.

78. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

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79. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said antibody or fragment is detectably labeled.